



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION IX
75 Hawthorne Street
San Francisco, CA 94105-3901

Ruben Sanchez
Field Manager, Kingman
Bureau of Land Management
2755 Mission Blvd.
Kingman, AZ
86401-3629

June 17, 2013

Re: EPA Region 9 Support for the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Hillside Mine Remediation Project

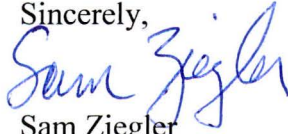
Dear Mr. Sanchez

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Region 9, has been working with Arizona Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ) on remediating an abandoned mine (Hillside Mine) site in the Boulder Creek watershed near Bagdad, AZ. At this site are three mine tailings piles which sit on three different land owner's property. The most upstream pile on Boulder Creek is located on BLM property. The lower downstream pile is located on Arizona of State Land Division (ASLD) property. The EPA, ADEQ, ASLD, and Arizona Department of Administration (ADOA) are collaborating on the remediation of the lower pile, and are working to bring in the private party who owns the middle pile for a cleanup of the pile and adit. It is our understanding from David Williams, BLM Hillside Project Manager, that BLM is working on remediating the upper pile. We support BLM's continued prioritization of remediating the upper tailings pile.

The primary goal of these activities is to restore water quality in Boulder Creek by removing the sources of pollution to meet Arizona's water quality standards. Boulder Creek from Wilder Creek to Copper Creek was listed as impaired on Arizona's Impaired Waters List (CWA 303(d)) in 1998 for arsenic, copper, and zinc. A total maximum daily load (TMDL), a water quality restoration action plan for Boulder Creek was completed in 2004. The lower pile remediation will improve water quality as it is estimated that it will remove 29% of the total zinc load going into the creek. However, to remove the zinc impairment, BLM will have to remediate the upper pile. It is estimated that if BLM remediates the upper pile Boulder Creek will meet the zinc and copper TMDL load allocations.

If you have any questions regarding this project, please feel free to call me at (415) 972-3399, or Jared Vollmer of my staff at (415) 972-3447.

Sincerely,



Sam Ziegler
Manager, Watersheds Office
Water Division

Cc: William L. Harris, BLM HAZMAT/AML State Lead
David Williams, BLM Hillside Project Manager
Linda Taunt, AZDEQ